

those who are serving today, those who are willing to pay the ultimate cost and, particularly today, as we focus on these 13 individuals who did pay that price.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF ANGEL KELLEY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the confirmation of Judge Angel Kelley to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

In a legal career that has already spanned almost 30 years, Judge Kelley has excelled in everything she has done, and she has done a lot. She has been a trial attorney, a legal instructor, and a State court judge in my home State of Massachusetts.

She has devoted her entire professional career to serving the public. She began her practice of law representing children in delinquency and protective care cases in New York. She went on to serve as a senior trial attorney and assistant chief for litigation in the fast-paced and demanding Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She served as an assistant U.S. attorney.

She has taught litigation skills to students at Harvard University Law School and supervised them representing indigent clients appearing in probate and family court.

As a judge sitting in the Massachusetts District and Superior Courts, she has presided over hundreds of trials. She has issued opinions in civil and criminal proceedings, addressing topics including employment discrimination, judicial immunity for testifying witnesses, grand jury integrity, the right against self-incrimination, and public records access. Her opinions suggest a thoughtful, balanced, and evenhanded approach.

Judge Kelley has throughout her career demonstrated one thing above all else, and that is an abiding commitment to our Nation's promise of equal justice under the law. She has been a leader in the Massachusetts judiciary on fulfilling this promise, especially to litigants of color. She has been a friend and mentor to many members of the legal community and their affinity groups, with her nomination receiving strong support from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, the Massachusetts Hispanic Lawyers Association, and the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, among others.

At a time when our Federal bench needs both diversity of experience and diversity of background more than ever, Judge Kelley meets the moment with qualifications that are, unfortunately, too rare for Federal judges. It is my sincere hope to see more nominees like Judge Kelley in the near future as we help reshape America's judiciary to better suit the people it serves.

In light of her qualifications, experience, and service, including a unani-

mous "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association, Judge Kelley received bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee to advance her nomination. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination here on the floor and vote yes to confirm her so that we can fill a long vacancy on the Massachusetts Federal court with a true, outstandingly qualified jurist who represents the best of our judicial system and our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

NOMINATION OF VERONICA S. ROSSMAN

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to speak about Veronica Rossman, President Biden's nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Ms. Rossman comes to this floor with broad legal experience and a sterling reputation in Colorado. Veronica cares deeply about justice and the rule of law because she knows what it means to live without it.

Veronica was born in Russia, where her family faced anti-Semitism at every turn. Her grandparents couldn't openly practice their faith because they feared retaliation at work. Her father was a brilliant career scientist who was routinely denied promotions. Her mother, a talented pianist and music teacher, never openly shared her faith until the family fled Russia.

In the end, Veronica's parents knew that anti-Semitism would stand in the way of her enormous potential, and they wanted her to grow up with a freedom that they never enjoyed. And like so many others in our country's history, Veronica and her family came to America as political refugees.

And from virtually nothing, Veronica built a distinguished legal career. She worked hard and earned a BA from Columbia University, and then a JD from the University of California at Hastings.

She clerked for Justice William Maupin of the Nevada Supreme Court, who could say not enough about her brilliant legal mind. Veronica then practiced appellate litigation at Morrison & Foerster, where she worked on one of the largest international patent cases in history.

Later, she served as a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and taught for 3 years at the University of Denver as a visiting professor of law.

In private practice, Veronica specialized in complex civil litigation and handled cases about everything from antitrust law to intellectual property law.

At this point, Veronica could have pursued any number of high-paying legal jobs, but, instead, she became a Federal public defender for the districts of Colorado and Wyoming.

And over the past 12 years, Ms. Rossman developed rare expertise as an appellate specialist, handling direct criminal appeals from every judicial district in the Tenth Circuit.

In her time as a public defender, she has handled or supervised over 100 appellate matters before the Tenth Circuit. She has represented more than 250 indigent clients—from controversial defendants to people sentenced to long terms for a nonviolent offense, even though they had no criminal history.

She fought for every one of those Americans, often against long odds. But more than that, she fought for the American ideal that everyone deserves equal justice under the law.

If confirmed, Veronica would be the only judge on the Tenth Circuit with experience as a public defender. We need more judges like Veronica, who are not only highly qualified, but who know what it means to be on the wrong end of the legal system that too often fails the most vulnerable in our society.

I know some of my Republican colleagues worry about confirming public defenders because they don't know that much about civil procedure. I don't share that view. But in Veronica's case, it doesn't apply anyway. When she was in private practice, as I mentioned, she worked exclusively on civil matters. She taught civil procedure at the University of Denver.

And some others have suggested that public defenders bring in an ideological agenda to the bench. In Veronica's case, that couldn't be further from the truth. Her family's story has proven her profound appreciation for how, at its best, the rule of law is an antidote to the arbitrary administration of law based on prejudice.

And you don't have to take my word for it. Here is what she told the Judiciary Committee under oath. She said:

[I]f confirmed. . . . In every case, I will treat all litigants respectfully and impartially. . . . I will carefully review the record on appeal; I will put aside any personal views; I will faithfully adhere to the rule of law.

Ms. Rossman's qualifications are obvious. She has been a first-rate lawyer, and she would make a first-rate judge. That is why the Judiciary Committee sent her to the floor with a bipartisan vote. Now I hope all of us can come together and confirm this outstanding nominee.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will continue the important work of confirming President Biden's judicial nominees.

From the moment President Biden entered office, Senate Democrats have worked closely with his administration to identify nominees with impeccable credentials and extensive experience. Together, we have worked to restore balance to our Nation's Federal courts by confirming nominees with diverse professional and demographic backgrounds.

Today, I would like to speak in support of three such nominees: David Estudillo, nominated to the Western

District of Washington; Angel Kelley, nominated to the District of Massachusetts; and Veronica Rossman, nominated to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge David Estudillo is a native son of Washington State who has devoted his entire legal career to serving his community. He was born in Sunnyside, WA, where his parents run a small grocery store bearing the family's name. His mom and dad first arrived in the United States in the 1960s as agricultural workers through the Bracero program. Inspired by his family's determination and tenacious work ethic, Judge Estudillo decided to pursue a career in law. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Washington and has since practiced law in the State where he is now nominated to serve.

Since 2015, Judge Estudillo has served as a Grant County Superior judge. When he ran for reelection in 2016, his record as a litigator and a judge earned him broad support within Grant County and throughout the State. He received endorsements from the Grant County Democratic and Republican Parties, as well as all nine State supreme court justices.

Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Estudillo served as a litigator for 16 years. He spent much of that time as an immigration attorney, a role in which he assisted his neighbors with asylum applications and helped explain the complexities of immigration law at a host of community forums.

Over the course of his judicial career, Judge Estudillo has presided over nearly 50 jury and bench trials that have gone to final verdict or judgment. He will be more than prepared to take on the demanding work of the district court from day one. Judge Estudillo has the strong support of his home State Senators, Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL, and received a "Qualified" rating from the American Bar Association. He also received a strong, 15-7 bipartisan vote in the Judiciary Committee.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination to the Western District of Washington.

Today, the Senate will also vote on Judge Angel Kelley's nomination to the Federal District Court of Massachusetts. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Judge Kelley has the credentials, experience, and temperament needed to effectively serve the people of Massachusetts.

Prior to her appointment to the Massachusetts State court in 2009, Judge Kelley was a prolific litigator who devoted her practice to public service. She worked as a Federal prosecutor, an attorney for indigent juvenile defendants, and as a senior litigator for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, where she helped represent the families of the 87 Port Authority employees who tragically lost their lives on 9/11.

With 13 years of judicial experience, Judge Kelley has handled both civil and criminal cases and presided over more than 100 trials. At every turn, Judge Kelley has demonstrated the qualities we expect from the best of jurists: thoughtfulness, evenhandedness, and impartiality.

Judge Kelley has the strong support of her home State Senators, Senators WARREN and MARKEY, and received a unanimous "Well Qualified" rating from the American Bar Association. Like Judge Estudillo, Judge Kelley received a bipartisan 15-7 vote in committee, a testament to her qualifications and commitment to the rule of law.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting Judge Kelley's nomination.

Finally, the Senate will also consider today the nomination of Veronica Rossman to a Colorado seat on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. With her extensive appellate experience in both private practice and as a Federal public defender, Ms. Rossman will be an outstanding addition to the Tenth Circuit.

She has spent the majority of her career at the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming, where she has handled and supervised over 100 criminal appellate matters arising out of every judicial district in the Tenth Circuit.

As I have said many times, former public defenders, like Ms. Rossman, offer a crucial perspective that is often underrepresented within our Federal judiciary. And I applaud President Biden and Senators BENNET and HICKENLOOPER for supporting her nomination.

In private practice, Ms. Rossman specialized in complex civil litigation, including appellate cases and matters involving antitrust law and intellectual property law. She has received a "Qualified" rating from the American Bar Association and earned bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. Rossman is a seasoned practitioner in Federal courts, and she is well prepared to serve on the Tenth Circuit. I look forward to supporting her nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to join me.

During the first 8 months of the Biden administration, this Senate has made tremendous progress in confirming to the bench individuals who have dedicated their careers to defending the rule of law.

With the three nominees before the Senate today, we can continue building on that progress and bring our Federal judiciary closer to reflecting the full diversity of the American experience.

VOTE ON KELLEY NOMINATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote scheduled for 5:30 be called now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kelley nomination?

Mr. BENNET. I ask for the nays and yeas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 364 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lujan	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Warnock
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Grassley	Padilla	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Hoeben	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—4

Braun	Rounds
Murkowski	Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 251, Veronica S. Rossman, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.